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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,498	01/09/2004	Soo Young Oh	0630-1914P	6820

2292 7590 03/21/2006

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EXAMINER
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HUSBAND, SARAH E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/753,498	Applicant(s) OH ET AL.	
	Examiner Sarah E. Husband	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2006.  
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.  
 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/27/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

Applicant's election with traverse of Species 1 in the reply filed on 1/5/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a reasonable number of species is permitted and would be in the same area of searching. This is not found persuasive because each individual species would require an independent and different search strategy, and because there are a large number of species, this would cause an undue burden on the Examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

### *Specification*

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: header (page 2, line 10), supply lint (page 7, line 14).

Thorough proofreading and appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins (GB 21286) in view of Nordin (US Patent No. 3,705,602) or Featheringill (US Patent No. 6,397,874).

Jenkins discloses a washing machine having a steam input and therefore also a steam generator which would inherently be present to produce the steam (page 2, lines 45-50). Jenkins also discloses a spray nozzle (D, E) communicating with the steam supply and circulation water supply and a circulation pump for pumping circulated water discharged from a tub and returning to the drum (page 3, lines 1-5). Jenkins further discloses a back-current preventing branch unit (Fig. 3, Item G3) preventing the flow of circulation water to the steam nozzle during the addition of steam (page 3, ll. 20-25; see entire document as well). Jenkins does not specifically disclose the back-current preventing unit limiting the flow of circulation water into the steam generator while the circulation water is being emptied into the tub or having a plate rotatable by a hinge and rested on protrusions. Featheringill discloses a back-current preventing plate limiting the flow of two streams and also discloses the plate is rotatable by a hinge (see Fig. 2, 6 and 7). Featheringill also discloses surfaces (protrusions) where the back-current prevention plate is attached (Fig. 2, Items 136, 113). Nordin discloses a back-current preventing plate, which is rotatable by springs and protrusions as well (Fig. 1, 2, Items 5-7,11). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jenkins with Nordin (or Featheringill) for the benefit of reducing contamination of the steam supply line and also for having control over the two flow lines simultaneously.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins and Nordin (or Featheringill) as applied to claims 1-4 above, and further in view of Love (US Patent No. 5,491,857).

Jenkins and Nordin (or Featheringill) disclose the apparatus shown above in the 103(a) rejection. They do not expressly disclose a nozzle unit having a flange and guide or spray angles of certain degrees. Love discloses a nozzle having a flange and guide (see Fig. 2) and also having certain spray angles of 90° and 30°-40° (col. 4, ll. 35-55). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jenkins and Nordin (or Featheringill) with Love for the benefit of an improved dispersal of fluid and wetting of clothing.

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art not disclosed are Larson (US 6006398), Guerrero-Parra (US 5953939), Ostergaard (US 4687138), Geschka (US 3672188), Felzer (US 5161394), Mandry (US 1646299), Muller (US 4204339), Wasinger (US 5313811) and Dillman (US 5130078), who disclose steam-cleaning apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah E. Husband whose telephone number is (571) 272-8387. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEH 3/12/2006



**MICHAEL BARR**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**